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Approved For Release 1999/09/10 : CIA-RDP83-00423R00110

CIA

Country: USSR

DATE 29 Oct 53

Subject: Possible Withdrawal from Western Europe

Supplement to:

Place Acquired: [REDACTED] 25X1A6a

Responsive to: P

Date Acquired: Aug 53

Date of Info : Aug 53

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SOURCE: [REDACTED]

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1. While I was in Paris in late August [1953] [REDACTED] told me he believed the USSR was going to withdraw from Western Europe. Some days later a rather prominent Viennese banker in London expressed the same view. These men pointed out that the Soviets have just about exhausted the coal and oil resources of occupied areas, have carted away an enormous amount of industrial equipment, have the animosity of the people in these areas, and the Soviets are finding the high cost of occupation is unjustified.
2. These men did not define their concepts of term "Western Europe."

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